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NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION NUMBER ASSIGNMENT

(Confirmation Number Required For Electronic Filing System Submissions)

Starting November 29, 2000, newly filed utility and plant applications for patents become subject to publication, and pending utility and plant applications may be published on the request of applicants. See 35 USC 122(b) and Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 Fed. Reg. 57023 (September 20, 2000), 1239 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63 (October 10, 2000). See <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/olia/aipa/rulechgs.htm>. For applications filed before, but pending on, November 29, 2000, an applicant may request voluntary publication pursuant to 37 CFR 1.221. The request must include a copy of the application in compliance with the Office's Electronic Filing System (EFS) requirements and be accompanied by the publication fee (37 CFR 1.18(d)) and the processing fee (37 CFR 1.17(i)). See <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs/index.html> for a discussion of the EFS requirements.

The EFS requirements include the use of a "confirmation number" in addition to the application number when submitting a specification for publication in order to ensure that the electronic submission is associated with the correct application number assigned to the application. This confirmation number is used in conjunction with the application number to identify a pending application. This procedure is necessary because many applications will have identical filing dates and similar application numbers and therefore a typographical error in the application number could result in the specification submitted via the EFS being placed in the wrong application if only the filing date and application number were used as the confirmation mechanism.

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